

***Examiner's Amendment***

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Mr. Christopher Hayden during a telephone interview on March 31, 2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

Insert the following Abstract on a separate sheet of paper:

-- Abstract

A tape printing apparatus having a thermal print head for printing an image on an image receiving tape, the print head having a first mode of operation for printing on an image receiving tape with an ink ribbon, and a second mode of operation for printing on thermally sensitive image receiving tape. A detector detects whether ink ribbon is present or absent in a receiving mechanism and provides a signal to a control mechanism indicative of the presence or absence of ink ribbon, the control mechanism being arranged to control the print head to have the first mode of operation when ink ribbon is present and the second mode of operation when no ink ribbon is present.

When the ink ribbon is mounted on a rotatable member, the detector may detect the ink ribbon movement, or detect the location of the rotatable member where the location is different whether an ink ribbon is present or absent, or detect the speed of rotation of the rotatable support member where the rotatable member rotates at different speeds depending on whether ink ribbon is present or absent. --

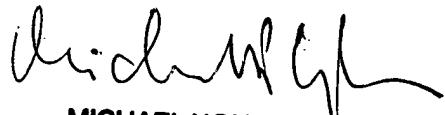
Cancel Claims 32-35 and 44-49.

***Contact Information***

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-2272. The examiner can normally be reached on M-H from 6:30AM – 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached at (571) 272-2269. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



MICHAEL NGHIEM  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Nghiem

March 31, 2004